

The Silver Bullet

Balad Air Base, Iraq

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March 1, 2004



Photo by Staff Sgt. A.C. Eggman

Master of Ceremonies Maj. Bruce Jones, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, recites accomplishments African-American's have made throughout history during the African-American Heritage Commemoration in Silver City's Recreation Center Tuesday.

Commemoration

Balad celebrates African-American heritage

By Staff Sgt. A.C. EGGMAN
332nd AEW Public Affairs

Balad airmen gathered at Silver City's Recreation Center to commemorate African-American Heritage Month Tuesday.

"Today we honor African-Americans whose contributions helped to make America what it is today," said Master of Ceremonies Maj. Bruce Jones, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron.

After Senior Master Sgt. John Joyce, 332nd ECES, sang the national anthem and Chaplain John Vanderkaay, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing chaplain, provided the innovation, Major Jones spoke about sev-

eral African-Americans who have made contributions throughout history such as Carter G. Woodson who began pressing for a "Negro History Week" in 1915. It wasn't until 1976, when the first Black History Month was celebrated. Although the constitutional 13th amendment abolishing slavery was signed in January, slaves did not start receiving word until February; therefore, Mr. Woodson chose February to recognize the contributions of African-Americans.

Major Jones also mentioned great Americans such as scientist Benjamin

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Briefly Speaking

Silver Lining Chapel

Protestant service

Sunday

9:15 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Service

5:30 a.m. - Traditional Service

Wednesday

7 p.m. Choir practice

8 p.m. Bible Study

Catholic service

Sunday

Noon - Mass

LDS service

Sunday

7 p.m. - Sacrament meeting

Thursday

7:30 p.m. - Family Home Evening

Check Cashing

Checks up to a maximum of \$200 weekly can be cashed at the Finance Office in the trailers by building 4014 Monday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Medical Care

Sick call is Monday through Saturday from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. and Sunday from 2 to 4 p.m. The medical clinic is in the trailers beside building 4014.

Bench press competition

There will be a Bench Press Competition Sunday at 7 p.m. in the Fitness Center. Weigh-ins start at 6 p.m. Prizes will be awarded for the top three in light, middle, and heavy weight categories. Sign up at the Fitness Center.

Commander's Corner

It's been my pleasure ...

By Col. MARKE GIBSON

332nd Air Expeditionary Wing Commander

It has been my pleasure to be on your team these last few weeks. Even before I moved the wing here from Tallil, I've watched you do everything our senior leaders have asked and more. You've not only jumped over the bar of excellence set by those who came before you, but



you continue to raise that bar for the ones that will follow you.

You're efforts are like a well-choreographed ballet, everything moving in sync. I, along with senior leadership, am gratified beyond words with all you have accomplished in these short months.

As we reach the end of the Air Expeditionary Force Silver rotation cycle, we will lose some people whose efforts have been key to the successes at Balad. Those people took Lt. Gen. Buchanan's vision and made it a reality.

For those just arriving, the previous team set the challenge and we'll have

high expectations to work towards.

The pace for the next 90 days will be fast and furious. I will ask a lot from you as we work toward making Balad more than just a strategic hub with C-5s, C-17s, and C-130s supporting the Army's logistical support mission.

Balad – the final U.S. presence in Iraq – is poised to be one of the most robust locations in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

For those leaving us, thank you for the hard work you put into Balad Air Base and in bringing us this far. Stand tall – you've made a difference. Godspeed as you make your travels home.

Change has been big part of our lives for months

By Lt. Col. STEPHEN VOYT

332nd AEW Chaplain

To say that change is a part of our lives isn't a news flash to any of us here. For the past four or five months change has been the word ruling our lives.



In late 2003 you probably received word that you were deploying to Balad Air Base, Iraq. First, you had to figure where you were going because no one had ever heard of Balad and you were to be part of the first Air Force team to go there.

Secondly, you changed your normal daily routine to make sure that you were ready to deploy – lots of rushing around, standing in lines, buying supplies, packing and saying goodbye were now a part of your life.

Finally, after what seemed to be

forever on countless planes, you arrived, only knowing that this was going to be "home" for the next few months. You met new people, made new friends, and started to change what was then a bare-base Army logistics staging area into Balad Air Base. Some of the changes that have taken place these past months have been obvious. Many of those changes have been captured on digital cameras so we could let our families back home know that things were not really all that bad. But many other changes have occurred that we will never be able to capture with any type of camera; the changes are inside ourselves.

Things do not change; we change.

Have you reflected on how your outlook on life has changed since you've been listening to outgoing fire while you were trying to sleep at night? Has your awareness of things altered after four months of wondering whether a loud boom you heard was either a controlled blast or a mortar hit? What was it like to drag your "battle rattle" to work with each day and not

know if today was the day you would actually need it? If we are honest with ourselves, we will have to admit that our time here has indeed changed who we are. Are we ready for that as we go home?

There is nothing like returning to a place that remains unchanged and finding the ways you have changed.

You might think you're the same as when you left, and if you have changed somewhat, you can just change back to way you were. Is that really the case? Some of you will go home to see a new daughter who wasn't even born when you left. Others will see a son who was just crawling four months ago and is now running all over the house. Some of you will be carrying on conversations with your little girl, who when you left, barely knew how to say one word. Not being there for those first moments have been a sacrifice, those sacrifices have changed you and your families.

If we don't change, we don't grow.

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Airmen hold commemoration to honor African-Americans

Commemoration

Continued from Pg 1

Banneker, also known as the first African-American inventor and for publishing the Farmers' Almanac; Dr. George Washington Carver who discovered several products that could be produced from the peanut such as instant and dry coffee, bleach, paper, ink, shaving cream and plastics to name a few. From the soybean he obtained flour, breakfast food and milk.

"It is highly doubtful that any person has done as much for southern agriculture as Dr. Carver," said Major Jones.

Other people mentioned included the regiments of the 9th Cavalry and 10th Cavalry – the Buffalo Soldiers; inventors like Marie Brown who patented a system that would use television cameras to monitor home safety and security; Garrett Morgan who invented the gas mask, the traffic signal; Phil Brooks patented the first disposable syringe; Dr. Charles Drew was the first person to develop the blood bank; and finally, the Tuskegee Airmen and their many accomplishments.

"Carter G. Woodson dream still thrives today because of Black History month," said Major Jones. "People throughout America celebrate as well as appreciate the accomplishments of African Americans everywhere."

The major was followed by several airmen who put on a short skit, took turns reading a poem, and closing remarks from Col. Marke Gibson, 332nd AEW commander. The audience joined in singing Lift Every Voice and Sing concluding the commemoration.



Photos by Staff Sgt. A.C. Eggman



Above: Tech. Sgt. Brian Adams, left, 332nd Expeditionary Medical Clinic, and Senior Master Sgt. John Joyce, 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing" at the conclusion of the African-American Heritage commemoration Tuesday. Left: Staff Sgt. Cortney Edwards, 332nd ECES, recites a poem during the commemoration.

Deployed experience changes everyone including family members just a little

Change

Continued from Pg 2

If we don't grow, we aren't really living.

Now as much as we love our children as children, no parent would ever say to a child that he or she could never grow up, that they could never change. This is simply part of life. Our time here has been a learning experience and opportunity. The question is, what did we learn about ourselves?

To change and to change for the better are two different things.

Our motto here has been: "Things keep getting better and better every day." It was easy to mark those changes. One example: We moved into our own tents in Silver City and then we received foam mattresses for our narrow

cots. Next, we got the bunk beds so we didn't feel like a taco because we sank in the middle of foam mattresses. Finally, we received real mattresses to help our aching backs. Those simple changes helped us to sleep better at night. No one would say, "Hey let's go back to sleeping in the Army Force Provider tents with 12 to a tent!"

In the same way, we should not want to undo the changes in our families and in ourselves. They have caused us to grow and become better people. The new friendships we have made have strengthened us. The work we have accomplished gives us rightful cause to be proud. As you pack your bags in the next few days, take some time to reflect, meditate and even pray about your time here. Ask yourself, whether you have changed and grown.

Only the wisest and stupidest of men never change.

News

AF, Central Command set war trophy policy

By Master Sgt. SCOTT ELLIOTT
Air Force Print News

WASHINGTON — Servicemembers deployed supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom may be tempted to bring home souvenirs of their war experience, but Air Force legal officials are urging them to think twice.

Depending on the item, bringing home a “war trophy” could lead to court-martial, said Lt. Col. Karen Manos, legal staff officer in the Air Force’s operations law division at the Pentagon.

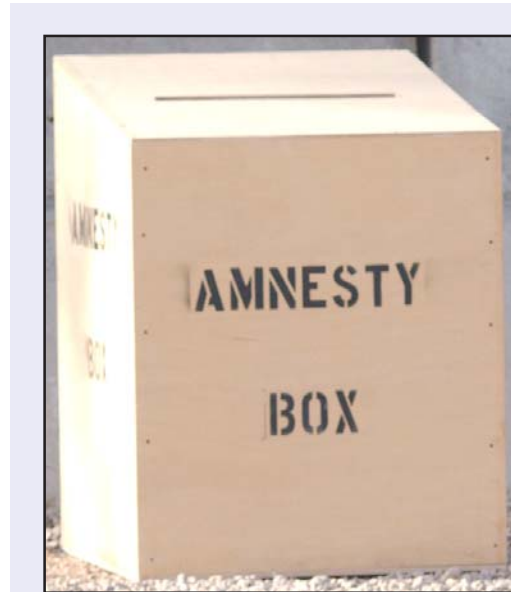
Air Force Joint Instruction 31-217, “Control and Registration of War Trophies and War Trophy Firearms,” has been in effect since the Vietnam era, Colonel Manos said. The instruction specifies what a servicemember must do to legally bring home a war trophy, and lists items that are not allowed to be brought home.

“(The instruction) lets you bring home certain things, but it requires written permission from the theater commander,” Colonel Manos said. “If you don’t get permission, it would be like theft - it would actually violate the Uniform Code of Military Justice and (the perpetrator) could be court-martialed.”

Two airmen were prosecuted by court-martial for violating the instruction following Operation Desert Storm.

According to the instruction, servicemembers are not allowed to claim the following as trophies:

- ☐ Property belonging to the United States or an allied nation.
- ☐ Nameplates pulled from any type of equipment.
- ☐ Live ammunition, flammables, explosives or any item containing explosives.
- ☐ Weapons that are defined as firearms by the National Firearms Act.
- ☐ Electronic equipment, such as radios or radar.
- ☐ Government-owned or privately owned equipment of the enemy that is



Amnesty Box

There is now an Amnesty Box behind the Fitness Center in front of the Texas barriers. The box is placed in a discrete location for a reason. Anyone with alcohol, pornography, war trophies or anything else identified in the Silver City rules as contraband, may place it in the box with no penalty. Items will be properly disposed of.

not designed for individual issue.

☐ Government-owned or privately owned articles of a household nature that have intrinsic value, such as coin collections or jewelry.

☐ Religious items.

☐ Items that have military research, training or intelligence value.

☐ Items obtained in violation of international law.

☐ Weapons that emit gas.

One potential gray area in the instruction is the collection of nonlethal items of vague military value, the colonel said.

“A lot of people are collecting things like pictures of Saddam Hussein and Iraqi flags,” she said. “A potential argument would be that it’s government-owned equipment not designed to be issued to an individual. It would probably be OK, but you’d still need permission to bring it home.”

Besides the Air Force joint instruction, Central Command General Order 1A prohibits weapons, munitions and military articles and equipment from being brought home as souvenirs.

An interim guidance signed Feb. 11, allows for bayonets and knives to be carried out of Iraq if proper documents are in the possession of the owner. The

owner must have one of three documents in their possession: a receipt confirming the purchase; a letter signed by the servicemember’s commander confirming purchase; or proper documentation IAW the interim guidance on individual war souvenirs dated Jan. 20.

Customs laws and postal regulations also prohibit shipment of certain items through the mail. According to the Air Force’s chief of postal policy, sending hazardous material through the mail could endanger innocent bystanders because the military often uses commercial airlines to carry its mail.

Colonel Manos said that, besides safety concerns, the instruction and general orders are intended to help the American military keep the moral high ground.

“They were established for good order and discipline,” she said. “We don’t want to have U.S. servicemembers acting like those of some other nations, where they can be accused of pillaging and stealing everything in sight.”

The key thing to remember, Colonel Manos said, is that there is a right way to collect and bring home souvenirs — servicemembers simply have to follow the rules.

Features

Ready to pursue

By Staff Sgt. A.C. EGGMAN

332nd AEW Public Affairs

They come packed and position themselves autonomously, ready to pursue their prey quietly, unseen for

hours.

The Nevada unit arrived self-contained, ready to set up one of the most impressive unmanned aerial aircraft in the U.S. inventory and get down to business within days of their

arrival here in late January.

"We are self-sufficient," said Maj. Russell Lee, 46th ERS commander deployed from Nellis Air Force Base, Nev. The Predator unit is one of Balad's newest missions. The unit moved from Tallil Air Base, Iraq, and within five days flew its first mission.

The only Predator unit in Iraq has a 55-man crew that includes medics, communication, contractors, weapons, comptrollers, fuels and aircraft generation specialists. They bring their own shelters, tents and vehicles.

"We're not under the Air Expeditionary Force system," said Major Lee, who was deployed here to specifically oversee the move. "We keep our assets here and rotate crews out every 90 days. It's a low density, high-demand asset."

The Predator is a medium-altitude, long-endurance unmanned aerial vehicle system, contains four air vehicles (with sensors), a ground control station and a primary satellite link communication suite.

The sleek 27 foot long, UAV is comparable in wing span to an F-16 Falcon – 48 feet. Its electrical optical infrared cameras are the heart of the system, said Major Lee. "It is a multi targeting system."

The cameras allow the aircraft to capture images even through clouds. These abilities give the Predator an advantage over the U-2 and the Global Hawk aircraft which are used for strategic reconnaissance.

"We're tactical," he said. "We provide real time information."

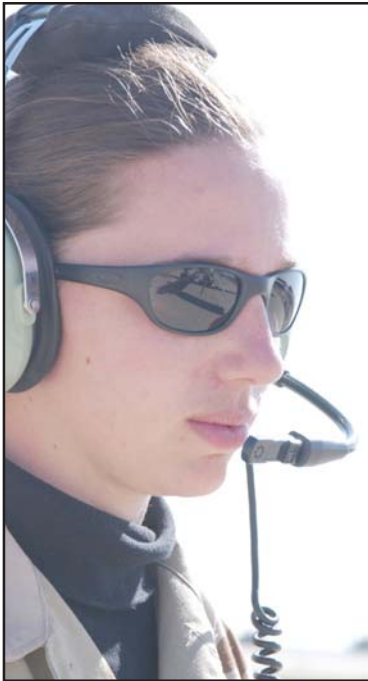
With their nearly 50-foot wingspans and four-cylinder engines, the UAV can fly nearly 20 hours from altitudes up to 25,000 feet, providing up-to-the second

Continued on Pg 6



The Predator sits on Balad's flightline ready for a nighttime surveillance mission over the skies of Iraq.

Photos by Staff Sgt. C.E. Lewis



Staff Sergeant Tracy Jones, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron crew chief, communicates with a Predator pilot.



Staff Sergeant Jeffrey Hicks, 46th Expeditionary Reconnaissance Squadron crew chief, replaces the mounting unit to the directional antenna of the Predator before flying a mission.

Predator mission moves to Balad, ready to pursue adversaries in war

Pursue

Continued from Pg 7

information to those who need it the most, the soldier on the ground. Although the Army initially led the Predator program, the Pentagon chose the Air Force as the lead service in 1995. The Predator has also been deployed in support of air campaigns in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan.

"We work with Army war fighters," Major Lee explained, "to help with the capture of enemy targets including the capture of Saddam."

The unit provides intelligence gathering, surveillance and strike capability to engage ground targets, he said.

"We do it every day. It is all we do," said Major Lee. "We literally fly everyday. There is always a Predator airborne around the world."

The unit works 12 hour shifts, seven days a week for 90 days.

"If someone gets sick, we have no replacement," the major said. "The only time off is when we don't fly and

I've never seen that."

Each crew – a pilot and a sensor operator or co-pilot - flies about three times a day. The pilot is a rated pilot. Currently, the unit has two fighter pilots and a bomber pilot to fly the craft. The sensor operators are the imagery analysts in the Air Force on flying status.

The crew receives air tasking orders, briefings, and talks to the tower and aircraft just like other flying units.

Major Lee, an F-15E pilot, has been with the Predator for two years, said it's not an easy system to operate.

"We physically fly the airplane, we just do it sitting on the ground," explained Major Lee. "It's much more challenging than flying an F-15 because you can't feel the airplane."

From a ground control station, the pilots maneuver the Predator just like any other aircraft. Pilots can comply with headings, altitudes and airspeeds directed by air traffic control, just as if they were in the cockpit.

"The crews must make themselves

believe they are flying the aircraft," he said. "If you become detached and lose focus on what you're doing, it's less effective."

While in the ground station the two-man crew watches a video monitor that displays images transmitted from the Predator's nose-mounted camera. All missions are recorded and information is disseminated to various intelligence units throughout the world.

"What we see is unique," said the major. "We see things most people don't have a clue that's going on."

Although the Predator unit has been flying missions throughout Iraq for quite some time, the major said flying missions from Balad has been challenging.

"This airport is a lot busier than others we've worked at," Major Lee said. Even though Balad's has a variety of aircraft operating, the Air Force and the Army have been very accommodating to make room for one more asset ready to pursue adversaries in the war against terrorism, he said.

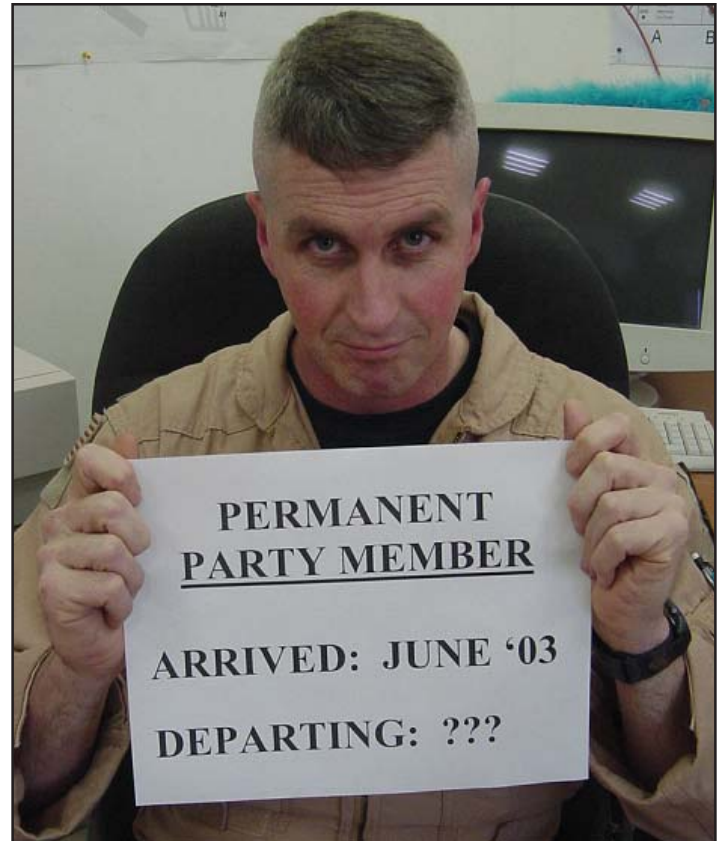
March 1, 2004

The Silver Bullet 7

Out with the
old crew,
in with the
new

SILVER FAREWELL

*Photos by
Staff Sgts.
C.E. Lewis
and
A.C. Eggman*





Around Balad

People in your neighborhood

Master Sgt. Robert Peregil

Civil Engineer Squadron

Home station: Kadena Air Base, Japan

Arrived in the AOR: Nov. 8

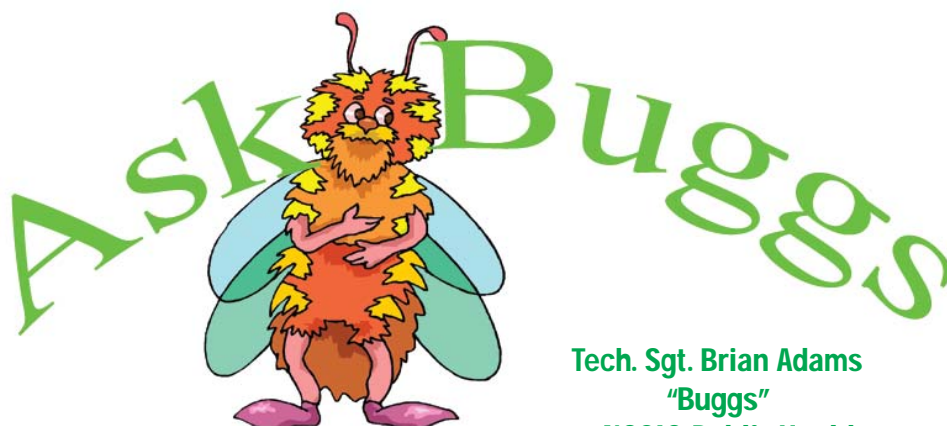
Family: Therese, J.C., Robert Grant, Robert Duke, Robert Zachary and Robert Jose

Hobbies: Cars, trucks, watching TV, movies, fishing, collectibles, sight-seeing and traveling with my family.

How do you contribute to the mission of Detachment 1? I provide Balad with the best civil engineer heavy equipment support, airfield and base maintenance possible.

What is your favorite aspect of this deployment? I have two. First, working and interfacing more with my Dirt Boyz team. At my home station, I don't get this opportunity because of my duty position. Here, I am in the thick of things with them. Second, is seeing different faces and establishing friendships with other squadron members and our Army brethren.

Besides your family, what do you miss about the states? I miss mostly the ability to drive and go places. The United States is a beautiful country and I love to travel.



Tech. Sgt. Brian Adams
"Buggs"
NCOIC, Public Health

"Ask Buggs" is a column that answers frequently asks Public Health questions. To submit questions send them to brian.adams@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil.

Q: Hey Buggs, what should I do if an animal bites me?

A: First, report to the Air Force Medical Clinic or the Combat Support Hospital immediately

for treatment. Make sure someone calls the Civil Engineers Help Desk and notifies them of the location and description of the animal. They will call the appropriate people and the animal will be apprehended.

Names to note

Congratulations to the following airmen on their February promotions:

Airman 1st Class

□ Airman 1st Class Vincent Aleandri, 332nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Senior Airman

□ Senior Airman Joshua Klein, 332nd Communications Squadron

□ Senior Airman Jennifer Mendelson, 332nd LRS

□ Senior Airman Shonda Jurgensen, 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

□ Senior Airman Yanderi Sandoval, 332nd CS

Staff Sergeant

□ Staff Sergeant Stephen Cox, 332nd Operations Support Squadron

□ Staff Sergeant Neil Mani, 332nd LRS

Master Sergeant

□ Master Sergeant Eric Burks, 332nd CS

Monthly Awards

The following individuals are February's winners from Balad.

Airman Category

Senior Kimichelle King
332nd Logistics Readiness Squadron

NCO Category

Tech. Sgt. David Larkins
332nd Security Forces Squadron

Senior NCO Category

Senior Master Sgt. John Joyce
332nd Civil Engineer Squadron

Officer Category

Capt. Kirby Bowling
332nd SFS

Team Award

Air Control Squadron

What's on at the movies



The Recreation Tent are not scheduling movies through Thursday. On a trial basis, they will play movies selected by majority vote. Place your vote with the Recreation Center staff.

The following movies are available to vote on:

- ___ Anger Management
- ___ Armageddon
- ___ Body Guard
- ___ Catch Me If you Can
- ___ Drum Line
- ___ Freaky Friday
- ___ Heartbreak Ridge
- ___ Men In Black II
- ___ Phone Booth
- ___ Road House
- ___ SeaBiscuit
- ___ Snake on the Eagle
- ___ Shadow
- ___ Swim Fan



- ___ The New Guy
- ___ The Outlaw Josey Wales
- ___ Unfaithful
- ___ Uptown Girls
- ___ Water Boy
- ___ We were Soldiers
- ___ Underworld

Breakfast: 5:30 to 9 a.m.
Lunch: 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.

DFAC LUNCH & DINNER MENU

Dinner: 5 to 8 p.m.
Midnight: 11:30 p.m. to 1 a.m.

| Today | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|---|
| Lunch BBQ chicken BBQ ribs Tomato soup | Lunch Fried chicken Pot roast Bean/bacon soup | Lunch Pork roast Chili mac Clam chowder | Lunch Pepper steak Fried fish Mushroom soup | Lunch Ribs Pot roast Broccoli soup | Lunch Lasagna Veal Chic/rice soup | Lunch Baked fish Manicotti Bean/bacon soup |
| Dinner Salisbury steak Baked chicken Baked ham Vegetable soup | Dinner Chic fried steak Baked fish Lasagna Bean/bacon soup | Dinner Cornish hens Meatloaf Turkey pot pies Clam chowder | Dinner Roast beef Fried chicken Spaghetti Mushroom soup | Dinner Baked fish Braised beef Pork chops Broccoli soup | Dinner Chicken curry Beef cordon bleu Roast turkey Chic/rice soup | Dinner Grilled chicken Swedish meatballs Roast ham Bean/bacon soup |

The Silver Bullet

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Commander

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Chief, Public Affairs

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and provided by the Public Affairs staff of the 332nd Air Expeditionary Wing - Balad Air Base, Iraq. The public affairs office can be contacted at 458-1149, or by e-mail at: silver.bullet@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil or 332aew.pa@blab.aorcentaf.af.mil

All photos are Air Force photos, unless otherwise indicated.

Deadline for all editorial submissions is 5 p.m. the Wednesday before publication.

3-on-3 battle



It was a battle to the last second Sunday afternoon during the 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament. Miranda's Panda's took the game at 10-9. Team members included Felix Miranda, Joe Perkins and Jeffrey Spencer of the 332nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron.



Photos by Staff Sgt. C.E. Lewis